A letter from Katrina Greetham, Salvation Army representative for Churches Together In Dorset:

It is great to have the opportunity to write a few words and introduce myself to you through the pages of this, our newsletter.

My name is Major Katrina Greetham, and, with my husband Jonathan, I lead the Salvation Army church in Wimborne where I am active and busy within the community, balancing church and community ministry with school chaplaincy and safeguarding responsibilities for a wider Salvation Army area. I also have the privilege of being Denominational Ecumenical Officer for Dorset!

In 30 years of ministry I have always had a passion for ecumenism, whether that has been working alongside colleagues from many denominations in primarily northern urban settings, or the 5 years spent supporting our forces families in Germany, working alongside military padres from across the denominations. And now it is a joy to be in Dorset (what an amazing place to be)!

As well as sitting on the CTD Executive committee, I love to be involved in my local settings. Recently in Wimborne we have had new church leaders arrive at the Minster, the Catholic church and the Baptist church, and this has been a catalyst to get together to organise some recent events – most recently an excellent Churches Together service during the week of Christian Unity where justice was explored. It was also an honour to support the third annual Holocaust Memorial Service in the town where hundreds of Jews and Christians came together in unity. I hear excellent reports through my own denominational channels of events together throughout the county – it is always a joy to hear of how we can build the kingdom of God together.

As an executive committee we love to hear your stories of good news! Please share them with us, and if we can support in any way then we will. Thank you for what you are doing in sharing the love of God where you are.

For you all, a verse for today –
Churches Together in England

The Presidents of Churches Together in England, together with other church leaders and aid organisations across Britain and Ireland are responding to the refugee crisis calling on their governments to take action, encouraging donations from church members and providing support where possible, often through partner organisations.

Read about some of the main initiatives from the churches as well as theological reflections, reports, sponsorship guides, the Welcome Church, Church Response and Safe Passage initiatives, frequently asked questions and the latest news relating to refugees and migration here. The publication ‘Focus on Refugees’, which covers news, policy, practical action and resources for those in the faith community, can be found here.

The 2019 CTBI Lent Course delved more deeply into the Mystery of God, seeking to rediscover what it is that draws us deeply in our search for God. Read about it here.

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The Free Churches Group recently commissioned an eighteen-month research project looking at the relationship between the Church and social cohesion in England. The project will be conducted by Theos, the UK’s leading think tank on religion and society issues. Find out more here.

A letter from the Churches Rural Group of Churches Together in England for general circulation can be found, which includes suggestions of the ways in which individuals and churches can support the farming community, as well as details of organisations which provide pastoral and practical support to farmers and farming families, can be found here.


The call to climate action has got louder and during Lent 2019, Christians were invited to respond by making significant lifestyle changes.

Research shows that the window of time to affect change is getting smaller, yet people are still unsure of the practical steps they can take to help.

During Lent, the Joint Public Issues Team (J PIT) – on behalf of the United Reformed Church (URC), Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland and the Methodist Church – hosted Living Lent: Creating a Climate of Change.

The Living Lent campaign invited people to take up one or more of six challenges. To:

- Go meat free
- Take up alternative forms of transport
- Commit to an hour ‘electricity free’ every day
- Give up single use plastics
- Commit to buying goods produced within 30 miles of where you live
- Commit to buying nothing new

They were invited to become part of an online community, who were also making these commitments. Through daily emails, the Living Lent community shared blogs, spiritual reflections, devotional and creative materials.

See Living Lent.

The ecumenical public rally ‘Standing Together’ took place in Trafalgar Square on 6 April 2019 from 2-4 pm, in response to the high incidence of violence and knife crime amongst young people in London. Cardinal Vincent Nichols said that the way to counter knife crime was to create a ‘sense of belonging’ for young people, see here, and The National Church Leaders Forum have produced a statement about knife crime with a list of actions to be taken Read here.
The new six part course ‘Transforming Poverty’ from Church Action on Poverty aims to bring Christians together to talk, think and pray about the struggles that local people may have because of having little money. Using Ken Loach’s film ‘I, Daniel Blake’ to inspire conversations and apply scriptural insights to everyday life issues relating to socio-economic deprivation, the course looks at how the Bible and faith in Jesus guides us to respond to these issues. Find the course here.

The national Rural Officers have written a letter with information about pastoral agencies supporting those in the rural economy who might be facing particular difficulties: https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=540206

The National Church Leaders Forum have produced a statement about knife crime, together with a list of actions to be taken. Full details follow on page 3 as not covered in CTe-News before, but the link is: https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/543764/Home/News/Latest_news/NCLF_statement_re.aspx

Churches Together in Dorset - Events

CTD Quiet Days :

Quiet Day with Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne : Title to be confirmed
Saturday, June 15th, 2019, 10am- 3.30pm, St Aldhelm’s Church, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8WR

Quiet Day with Colin Norris, Regional Team Leader, Southern Counties Baptist Association : Out of My Depth and Going Deeper Saturday, 12th October, 2019, 10am- 3.30pm, Faith House, Holton Lee, 74 East Holton, Holton Heath, Poole BH16 6JN

For more information or to book a place, please contact Katja Babei, County Ecumenical Officer tel : 077899 52472 email katjactd@gmail.com

News from Local CT and Ecumenical Groups:

Churches Together in Charminster, Moordown and Winton

Bournemouth Community Church in partnership with Hope in the Community warmly invite you to an Easter Monday Tea.

“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive”
1 Corinthians 15:22 NIV

22nd April 2-4pm
Come and join us at Bournemouth Community Church at the Lifecentre, 713 Wimborne Road, Moordown.

Contact us by Thursday 18th April on 01202 530265 or Tona - tona.carr@bournemouthcommunitychurch.com
Or Tess - titchbournemouth@btinternet.com

Please give us a contact number and an address if you need a lift.
The Turning Mission will be launched in Dorset across three locations from 13th - 22nd June 2019, with an opportunity for all churches to come together and worship. On 21st May, there will be a half night of prayer, to which all are welcome. Find out more at www.theturning.eu or contact Andy Driscoll on 01202 530265

Wimborne Churches

The Good Friday Walk of Witness took place on 19th April 10:30am at St. John's Church and proceeded along Leigh Road into East Street, up to the Methodist Church, beside the Minster and back down through Crown Mead, crossing over the new bridge to arrive at Willow Walk. A combined churches service took place at 11am. Christians in the town, whether members of local churches or not, were invited to join the walk at any point.

A Service of Light took place on Tuesday 16th April 7.30pm at St Catherine’s Church, Wimborne BH21 1LE - an unusual service in that the congregation sit in the church in silence for an hour with no lighting, as dusk fell. There were eight cycles of a reading, a commentary on The Passion, followed by a minute's silence and then music from a small choir. The central focus of the service was time for peace and reflection. The service involved all of the Wimborne churches and was open to all. Running for over thirty five years, this service clearly continues to support many on their spiritual journey in the approach to Easter.

‘Just As I Am’ Tea and Worship, in Association with local churches and Faithworks Wessex, takes place at St Michael’s and All Saints, Colehill Lane, Colehill, BH21 7AB at 3pm on Sunday, 28th April, 2019. The service is dementia friendly, but open to anyone who would welcome short, informal worship. Followed by tea and cake.

Churches Together in Sherborne

A Good Friday Walk of Witness took place on Friday, 19th April 2019 at 10.45am, starting at the bus shelter at the top of Cheap Street, stopping at several points to re-enact scenes from Jesus’ final days, and ending at The Abbey.

Christian Aid Week Service on Friday, 17th May 2019 at 7.00pm at Cheap Street Church, followed by refreshments.

Churches Together in Poole

Easter Sunday, 21st April : at 8.45am a Continental Breakfast took place in Wesley’s Café, the Spire with Service of Holy Communion at 10.30am, led by Rev Canon Dr Andrew Wood and assisted by Deacon Sarah Wickett.

17-23 June, 2019 is Refugee week

This year's theme is: 'You, me and those who came before’ an invitation to explore the lives of refugees – and those who have welcomed them – throughout the generations.

This provides a great opportunity to bring awareness to the needs of refugees and how we can be of support to those who live in our area. If you are in the Poole area and need any assistance in coming up with some creative ideas for Refugee Week in your church or school, please do not hesitate to contact Anita Dalkin, Refugee Coordinator with Churches Together in Poole. You can also find a variety of resources at Refugee Week.

Churches Together in Gillingham

A Walk of Witness took place through Gillingham High Street on 19th April, 2019, starting at 11am at Barn Surgery and ending at St Mary the Virgin Church.
Blandford Churches
The Way of the Cross, an ecumenical event, began at Blandford Evangelical Church at 10am.

Churches Together in Southbourne
A Good Friday Service at Immanuel Church took place at 10am, followed by a walk to Fisherman’s Walk, with an Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Gordon Zigzag at 6am.

Churches Together in Boscombe
There was a Good Friday Service at Fisherman’s Walk bandstand at 11am.

Other News and Events

Bournemouth

The first Bournemouth Conversation took place on at the City Gate Church on Wednesday, 20th February 2019, with a range of representatives from Voluntary and statutory agencies in attendance. A number of projects show-cased their work towards grassroots transformation - eliminating isolation and creating great neighbourhoods and safe, caring communities.

Some of the issues mentioned were the lack of social housing; the need for more beds for the homeless; loneliness in the young and old; the lack of inter-generational groups and transitional services, suitable transport and provision for vulnerable people, including those with learning disabilities; the need for a community centre in Boscombe; buddy or mentoring systems and champions issues; training opportunities for disabled people, especially for those 18 plus; raising awareness of ways to conserve energy and protect the environment. The need for more evening support groups, community payback schemes and more funding for transport was highlighted. The need for more social prescribing events, campaigns, networking and advocacy about issues was raised.

Many things were celebrated, such as Sleepsafe, The Ark community meals at City Gate Church and Joy Community Café in Boscombe. A full report will be out soon. Meanwhile, the Bournemouth Conversation has a Facebook page, where you can find out about some of the projects and opportunities for involvement.

Poole

Since September/October last year, a team have been working hard to pull together the findings of the Poole Youth Conversation and to put a plan of action together for addressing some of the gaps raised by Young People.

Most agreed that we need to be thinking more creatively about how we can engage with young people where they are. Mini conversations were suggested as a possibility, celebrating what’s great and identifying gaps. The need for better communication about what’s on in the area was highlighted by the young people, as well as their wish to be listened to more.

Other things prioritised by young people were more safe places to meet, which were very local - not just to hang out at, but as a place to take part in meaningful activities. The creation of an app showing community-based activities, and a trial volunteer’s
‘passport’ with reward points was something discussed (for example, with 5 community activities leading to one free and enjoyable activity for the young volunteer).

**The Spire- Poole Methodists, High Street, Poole BH15 1D**

**Sunday, 21st May:** ‘Thanks for the Memory,’ 5pm in the Rose Hall, to give thanks to those who have worked and walked with Poole Methodists. **13th June:** *Family Treasure Trail* with crafts, a quiz and cakes. **Saturday, 20th July 2019:** *Celebration Service* 3.15pm in the Rose Hall, with invited speaker from the Methodist Conference Rev Dr Barbara Glasson who will dedicate the Spire. **Call 01202 980 895** Facebook: The Spire [www.poolemethodists.org.uk](http://www.poolemethodists.org.uk)

**The Bishop of Sherborne, Karen Gorham,** has invited people to join her in a pilgrimage to the beautiful Norman Chapel at St Aldhelm’s Head, near Worth Matravers, to celebrate *St Aldhelm’s Day* on 25th May, 2019. All welcome. Read more [here](http://www.poolemethodists.org.uk)

In preparation for *Thy Kingdom Come* celebrations, the Church of England has launched a new website and a customisable video for churches.

Thy Kingdom Come, which takes place from **30 May to 9 June** and culminates in Salisbury Diocese with a special service at the Cathedral, is now in its fourth year. Taking place between Ascension and Pentecost, the celebrations unite over a million Christians from more than 65 denominations and traditions globally. Read more [here](http://www.poolemethodists.org.uk)

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**Urban Saints** has been reaching out to young people, who are not part of a local church, for over 100 years. Chief Executive Officer Richard Langmead is keen to work with different denominations. Email him at rlangmead@urbansaints.org

Find out more at [www.urbansaints.org](http://www.urbansaints.org)

Contact julie.wigg@dorsetcommunityfoundation.org.uk
Opportunities

Church 2U

When you can no longer get to church, then why not take 'church' to you? That was the solution when one member of a Weymouth Church group that supports older people found she was no longer able to make the journey to Emmanuel and St Mary's.

To help support older people in their community Emmanuel church runs a lunch club, a coffee morning and a group called Homemakers that meet twice a month. But recently one of their 'regulars', Rhona, had moved from her own home into a home.

"Knowing how much Rhona enjoyed music, Bev, who runs Homemakers, asked local band, and congregation members 36 Strings, if they could do 'A Concert for Rhona'. The care home thought it was a great idea too.

So Homemakers, along with members of Emmanuel's congregation, all went to Rhona for a fun evening of 60's and 70's music. Rhona was utterly thrilled both by the music and spending time with her church community."

Could your community offer something similar, and could it be an ecumenical project? Read more: https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/news/bringing-church-2-u

Safe Families for Children is a National Christian organisation who have been partnering with churches in Bournemouth for the last 2 years to in helping the local authority to prevent children going into care, if possible, by early intervention. As a national organisation, Safe Families have developed a family focussed transformation programme, funded by Dorset County Council. The model is simple: they partner with local churches to train and equip their people, and connect them with isolated families so they can build communities that bring hope.

They meet with families to help stabilise their situation and help them to link with local churches for support. Volunteers who are Family Friends can meet weekly with a family, invite them to church and community events; Volunteer Respite Carers might offer short term respite care; and Resource Friends are people who have particular skills to help families with some aspect of life. 70-80% of people helped have not re-entered the system again.

Safe Families are starting to partner with churches across Dorset to support the church to build relationships that bring hope to isolated families and would like to partner with the cross-church community. They are keen to visit the different churches and explore what a partnership would look like. They can then provide safeguarding and respite training.

Weymouth and Portland Safe Families for Children Information Evening, Thurs 23rd May, 2019 at 7.30pm at St Johns Church, Weymouth. A non-committal opportunity to find out more about the charity and how churches and individuals can be involved. All welcome.

Could your church community be a part of this initiative ? Email Camilla Hawley at camillahawley@safefamiliesforchildren.com

See how some people from a local church transformed Toby and his family’s life at https://vimeo.com/199137767

Pause for Hope is a charity that organises and equips ecumenical services of prayer for all those affected by cancer throughout the UK and Ireland who would be delighted to discuss the possibility of a Pause for Hope service in your locality. They would provide
The International Care Network (ICN) is an independent, faith-based charity which supports refugees and asylum seekers within Dorset
Tel: 01202 589395
info@icn.org.uk
www.icn.org.uk

Poole Refugee Support
Anita Dalkin, Refugee Coordinator, runs a women’s conversation group on Thursdays at St Peter’s Church Centre, Poole. Volunteers to assist in cultural awareness and assimilation, support and befriending are still needed. Two more refugee families may be arriving in Poole in 2019. Accommodation is needed. Contact anita.dalkinetip@gmail.com

Sherborne Community Church has stepped out in faith to partner with Christians Against Poverty (CAP), to help individuals become debt free. There is a need for more befrienders in Sherborne. Training will be given to those interested. Please contact Anne Charlotte or Steve Hart, Area Manager, at St John’s Church, Yeovil Debt Centre 01935 425369 email office@yeovilfamilychurch.org for more information.

support for any service that could be held, would publicise any service, provide a draft Order of Service, prayer cards, intention cards and other key components. If your group would be interested in supporting this prayer initiative and its development in the UK by holding a service, contact Kate Strickland-Wright, National Development Officer and Manager, tel: 07740948989 www.pauseforhope.org.uk

Dorset Faith Leaders and Faith Group Representatives Call on Local Authorities in Dorset to Help More Child Refugees Find Safety in Our County

This autumn will mark the 80th anniversary of Kindertransport, a rescue operation that saved 10,000 Jewish and other refugees from Nazi persecution.

Regional and local faith leaders and faith group representatives believe that it is our turn to honour that legacy by helping more child refugees to find safety in Dorset. They have called upon local authorities in Dorset, including the new unitary authority, to make a commitment to resettle at least 3 at risk child refugees each year for 10 years in a fully government-funded scheme which would see a child in desperate need travel by legal and safe routes, rather than being forced to take perilous journeys, vulnerable to sexual exploitation, forced labour and trafficking.

There is now a Dorset-wide appeal for Foster Carers, and Supported Lodgings for a child aged 16 plus, as part of the ‘Our Turn’ campaign. Those willing to explore either option should contact their local Children’s Services Department.

Dorset Safe Passage – Facebook

Poole

The Spire Recruitment is underway for a full-time Centre Administrator (35 hours per week) at The Spire, the new and innovative Christian led community project in Poole High Street, set up by Poole Methodists. This could be a great development opportunity, with the role, evolving as the Centre grows. For an application form and more information, please make contact via Indeed.co.uk and search for “Centre Administrator - Poole, Dorset” Closing date 26 April 2019.

The Spire is also seeking an exceptional and well-motivated Catering Manager to take it to the next level. For an application form and more information, please make contact via the Indeed.co.uk and search for “Catering Manager, Poole.”

Poole New Monasticism:
Going deeper in prayer and social action. A monthly event with a Thursday Group of Centering Prayer, including monthly trips to Hilfield Friary. Contact Andy Mason vicaratlarge@hotmail.co.uk

West Dorset

Dorset South and West Circuit: an experienced administrator with IT skills, is needed to work under the direction of Council of Stewards at United Church Dorchester (Methodist / URC) as Clerical Coordinator. This is a fixed term post for 5 hours per week based at United Church Dorchester and ending on 31st August 2020 (subject to possible renewal). Salary £2769 per annum (based on £10.65 an hour). For further information and an application pack, please contact circuit steward Mrs Alison Cocks Tel: 01305 458178 Email: alison.cocks82@gmail.com (Ref. Ds&w 19/05) Closing date: 13th May 2019
North Dorset
Sherborne, Christian Aid Week Organiser: someone is needed to work alongside Martin Heal, with a view to taking over from him.

Bournemouth and Poole
City of Sanctuary Creating a grassroots movement, and working to develop a Culture of Welcome in Bournemouth and Poole, it invites cross-sector organisations, including businesses, schools, faith groups, health and voluntary groups, to think about the ways in which they can help people in need of sanctuary to feel welcome - in particular, refugees and asylum seekers; and it helps Local Authority participation in the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement (VPR) Programme.

How you can help: invite a refugee to take part in your hobby; invite them for dinner; offer volunteer placements for suitably skilled refugees; raise funds for a local refugee charity; provide accommodation or contribute to rent; appoint refugees to positions of responsibility in the community.

Find out more here

Resources
International Fellowship of Reconciliation – Nonviolence in Action Get your church praying in Peace Sunday, resources, campaign resources, news and support, campaigns against war injustice violence 01865 250781 office@for.org.uk

Poole Eco Hub A Space in heart of Poole for community groups to encourage more thoughtful and sustainable ways of living

International Peacemakers Fund. Read more here

Sustainable Dorset Hub of all sustainable and resilient activity across Dorset, aims to raise awareness and so increase interest and involvement in sustainability

Memory Lane Dementia Group, Immanuel Church, Southbourne

Moordown Baptist Church – a variety of events

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland news and resources https://ctbi.org.uk/

World Council of Churches: Roadmap for Congregations, Communities and Churches for an Economy of Life and Ecological Justice
An invitation to congregations, communities and churches to discuss a 5-step programme to change the way we deal with the economy and our ecological surroundings. A wonderful resource full of suggestions, including the creation of community gardens and places of moneyless interaction, the promotion of climate-friendly mobility, and the practise of alternative economic models. Read more here

ChurchMissionSociety.Org - Creation Care: A Biblical Reflection. Read more here

Since 2005, "Sustainable preaching" has been offering ecumenical preaching suggestions and a new dynamic to align the lectionary Bible readings of the Sundays into the global context of sustainable life and action.
If you are interested in what Christian discipleship has to do with sustainability, would like to know how to communicate this knowledge, or are clergy and would like suggestions for your sermons, you can find resources [here](#).


The term ‘**ecoanxiety**’ has been coined to help explore the sense of despair/helplessness many can feel when faced with environmental issues such as species loss and climate change. The Finnish pastoral and eco theologian Panu Pihkala offers ten possible ways through. Read his ideas [here](#).

**Facebook**: Salisbury Diocese Environment Group for environmental news and resources

Sarum College courses and events  Tel: 01722 424800  [info@sarum.ac.uk](mailto:info@sarum.ac.uk)

Sherborne Abbey courses and events  [http://sherborneabbey.com/welcome/events/](http://sherborneabbey.com/welcome/events/)

Walking the Way URC : a wide variety of resources – including prayers, liturgies, seasonal resources, hymns, poems, films and examples of good practice [here](#).

‘One Mission Matters’ Methodist Church Newsletter [here](#)

International Ecumenical Fellowship  [www.ief-oecumenica.org](http://www.ief-oecumenica.org)

Swanage food bank  [07759230313](tel:07759230313)

Bibles for Children  [www.biblesforchildren.org.uk](http://www.biblesforchildren.org.uk) email  bibles4children2@aol.com

In March, the government released the latest poverty statistics. Despite the fact that work should be the best route out of poverty, 70% of children in poverty now live in working families. There are 200,000 more children in severe poverty than last year. The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG ) has published a book, ‘**Living Hand to Mouth: Children and Food in Low-income Families**,’ drawing upon the UK findings of the Families and Food in Hard Times study, and highlighting the experiences of children and families in low-income households. Find this resource at [www.cpag.org.uk](http://www.cpag.org.uk)